

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01788 270852Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SYE-00
A-01 /035 W

-----122383 270900Z /11

P R 270715Z AUG 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6668
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1788

DEPT FOR NEA/ARN, NEA/EX AND O/C

ATHENS FOR TSO

AMMAN FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, AFSP
SUBJECT: BELT SYSTEM

REF: (A) ATHENS 7186 (B) BAGHDAD 1700

1. THE OBVIOUS ATTENTION AND EVIDENT EFFORT THAT TSO
ATHENS HAS DEDICATED TO CONSIDERATION OF PORTION
OF OUR OVERALL SECURITY PROBLEM IS APPRECIATED,
SINCERELY. PART OF THE DIFFICULTY FACING USINT IS
THAT OUR SITUATION IS ONLY IMPERFECTLY UNDERSTOOD BY
THOSE WHO ARE NOT HERE, WHETHER THEY ARE IN WASHINGTON
OR ELSEWHERE, AND WE DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE A COMPLETE
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OTHERS HAVE IN MIND. THE ACR
IS A CASE IN POINT.

2. TSO MAY BE UNAWARE OF OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A
VERY LOW PROFILE ACROSS THE BOARD, AND IN PARTICULAR
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THE NEED TO AVOID FOCUSING ANY FURTHER ATTENTION
ON THE CCC AREA. PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF REFTTEL,
WE WERE UNAWARE OF THE SIZE OF THE PROPOSED SHIPMENT
OR THE FACT THAT IT IS CLASSIFIED. ON EITHER POINT
ALONE, BUT PARTICULARLY TOGETHER, THE ACR IS
NOT RPT NOT A GOOD IDEA.

3. EVEN IF WE COULD GET 5,000 LBS., 1,500 CU. FT. OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL INTO THE COUNTRY WHICH IS HIGHLY PROBLEMATIC, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT IT SHOULD BE TRIED. BY ITSELF IT WOULD GENERATE CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL SUSPICION. TAKING THAT QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT INTO THE CCC WOULD TOTALLY NEGATE ALL THE LONG MONTHS OF LOW-KEY ACTIVITY AIMED AT GETTING USINT INTO THE ERA OF SEMI-MODERN COMMUNICATIONS WITHOUT UNDULY PROVOKING THE IRAQIS.

4. WE CANNOT HOPE TO MATCH TECHNICAL SECURITY EXPERTISE WITH TSO ATHENS OR SY WASHINGTON, NOR WOULD WE TRY. OUR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS NEEDED AND/OR POSSIBLE IN BAGHDAD IS PERHAPS SIMILARLY UNIQUE. WE PREFERRED THE BELT OVER THE ACR IN THE SHORT RUN, AS MADE CLEAR IN EARLIER MESSAGES, BECAUSE WE FELT SOME FORM OF SECURITY IS REQUIRED AND BECAUSE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT NOTHING IS ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY OR EASILY HERE. HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF WHAT IS ENTAILED, IN THE INSTALLATION OF AN ACR, WE NOW OPPOSE IT AS BEING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OUR LARGER INTERESTS.
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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